Upton Sinclair

**Upton Beall Sinclair, Jr.** (September 20, 1878 – November 25, 1968), was an American author who wrote close to one hundred books in many genres. He achieved popularity in the first half of the twentieth century, acquiring particular fame for his classic[muckraking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muckraker) novel, [*The Jungle*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jungle) (1906). It exposed conditions in the U.S. [meat packing industry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meat_packing_industry), causing a public uproar that contributed in part to the passage a few months later of the 1906 [Pure Food and Drug Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pure_Food_and_Drug_Act) and the [Meat Inspection Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meat_Inspection_Act).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton_Sinclair#cite_note-1) In 1919, he published[The Brass Check](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Brass_Check), a [muckraking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muckraker) [exposé](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expos%C3%A9_(journalism)) of American journalism that publicized the issue of [yellow journalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_journalism) and the limitations of the “free press” in the United States. Four years after the initial publication of *The Brass Check*, the first code of ethics for journalists was created.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton_Sinclair#cite_note-2) *Time* magazine called him "a man with every gift except humor and silence."[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton_Sinclair#cite_note-timebelle-3) In 1943, he won the [Pulitzer Prize for](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulitzer_Prize_for_Fiction)

Writings

Sinclair devoted his writing career to documenting and criticizing the social and economic conditions of the early twentieth century in both fiction and non-fiction. He exposed his view of the injustices of capitalism and the overwhelming impact of the poverty. He also edited collections of fiction and non-fiction.

***The Jungle***[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Upton_Sinclair&action=edit&section=6)]

His novel based on the meatpacking industry in Chicago, [*The Jungle*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jungle)*,* was first published in serial form in the socialist newspaper [*Appeal to Reason*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appeal_to_Reason_(newspaper))*,* from February 25, 1905 to November 4, 1905. It was published as a book by [Doubleday](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubleday_(publisher)) in 1906.[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton_Sinclair#cite_note-31)

Sinclair had spent about six months investigating the Chicago meatpacking industry for *Appeal to Reason*, work which inspired his novel. Sinclair intended to "set forth the breaking of human hearts by a system which exploits the labor of men and women for profit".[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton_Sinclair#cite_note-32) The novel featured Jurgis Rudkus, a [Lithuanian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuanian_people) [immigrant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigrant) who works in a meat factory in Chicago, his teenage wife Ona Lukoszaite, and their extended family. Sinclair portrays their mistreatment by Rudkus' employers and the wealthier elements of society. His descriptions of the unsanitary and inhumane conditions that workers suffered served to shock and galvanize readers. [Jack London](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_London) called Sinclair's book "the[Uncle Tom's Cabin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncle_Tom%27s_Cabin) of [wage slavery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wage_slavery)".[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton_Sinclair#cite_note-33) Domestic and foreign purchases of American meat fell by half.[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upton_Sinclair#cite_note-34)